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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9393
INFO RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE 5614

S E C R E T ANKARA 000539

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/10/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [IR](#) [TU](#)
SUBJECT: TURKEY: SABERI DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: SECSTATE 34365

Classified By: Ambassador James F. Jeffrey, reasons 1.4(b,d)

11. (S) Ambassador delivered reftel points April 10 and urged Turkish MFA U/S Apakan that Turkey press Iran to release Roxana Saberi as a humanitarian gesture.

12. (S) We delivered the demarche separately April 10 MFA Iran Section Head Mehmet Sekerci. Sekerci assured us he would convey our request to his superiors. Sekerci noted that Turkey generally avoids interference in Iran's domestic affairs. However, Turkey has aligned itself in the past with human rights statements on Iran and said it might be possible that Turkey does so on any such statement concerning Saberi. (NOTE: It is unclear if Turkey will seek to align itself with the Czech Presidency statement on developments in the case of Saberi that was issued shortly after our meeting. END NOTE.)

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Jeffrey